

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A sports equipment handle comprising:

an elongate shaft made of a first material and including at least one region of reduced diameter or thickness; and

a cover made of a second material and surrounding the shaft in a manner whereby the outer diameter of the handle including the cover is substantially uniform and the cover includes at least one region of increased thickness in the region of the shaft having the reduced diameter or thickness.

Claim 2 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 1 wherein the shaft includes a tapered end portion defining the region on the shaft of reduced diameter or thickness.

Claim 3 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 2 suitable for use on a lacrosse stick including a lacrosse head and the tapered end portion of the shaft extends into the head.

Claim 4 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 1 wherein the material comprising the shaft is extruded onto the shaft.

Claim 5 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 1 suitable for use on a lacrosse stick and wherein the shaft includes opposed tapered end portions defining the regions on the shaft of reduced diameter or thickness.

Claim 6 (original): The sports equipment of claim 1 wherein the material comprising the cover is tinted in the region of the shaft with the reduced diameter or thickness.

Claim 7 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 1 wherein the shaft includes

a plurality of elongate ~~longitudinally~~ longitudinal grooves formed thereon and extending around the circumference thereof in spaced-apart relationship, the respective grooves defining the regions on the shaft of reduced diameter or thickness and the material comprising the ribs fills the grooves respectively and defines elongate longitudinally inwardly extending ribs.

Claim 8 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 7 suitable for use in connection with a lacrosse stick.

Claim 9 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 1 wherein the cover includes an interior surface and the shaft includes a plurality of longitudinal grooves thereon and extending around the circumference thereof in spaced-apart relationship, the respective grooves defining the regions on the shaft of reduced thickness and the cover defining elongate longitudinal ribs extending outwardly from the interior surface and spaced around the circumference thereof and filling the respective grooves when the cover surrounds the shaft.

Claim 10 (original): A sports equipment handle comprising:
a shaft made of a first material and defining a plurality of elongate longitudinal edges extending around the periphery thereof in spaced-apart relationship; and
a plurality of elongate longitudinal cushioning ribs made of a second material and overlying the plurality of edges respectively.

Claim 11 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the edges comprise respective elongate longitudinal grooves formed in the shaft.

Claim 12 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 11 wherein the second material fills the respective grooves to define the respective ribs.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the shaft includes exterior and interior surfaces and the edges define elongate longitudinal slits extending through the shaft, the ribs extending through the slits respectively and into the interior surface of the shaft.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the edges protrude outwardly from the exterior surface of the shaft and the ribs include respective interior surfaces configured to abut against the respective edges and an adhesive secures the ribs to the respective edges.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the shaft and ribs include interior and exterior surfaces respectively, the ribs being unitary with a one-piece elongate cover adapted to surround the shaft and the interior surface of the ribs being spaced from the edges respectively.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the plurality of edges define depressions therebetween and the ribs overly the depressions respectively.

Claim 17 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the ribs protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior surface of a cover surrounding the shaft and the cover is applied to the shaft in a relationship wherein the ribs overly and fill the respective grooves.

Claim 18 (original): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein a co-extrusion process is used to fill the respective grooves with the second material to define the respective ribs.

Claim 19 (original): A lacrosse stick handle comprising:
a elongate shaft made of a first material and including a plurality of elongate longitudinal grooves extending around the periphery thereof in spaced-apart relationship; and
a plurality of elongate longitudinal ribs made of a second material and overlying the plurality of elongate longitudinal grooves respectively.

Claim 20 (original): The lacrosse stick handle of claim 19 wherein a cover surrounds the shaft, the cover being made of the second material and defining the plurality of ribs overlying the grooves respectively.

Claim 21 (original): The lacrosse stick handle of claim 20 wherein a co-extrusion process is used to apply the cover to the shaft and the second material comprising the cover fills the grooves respectively.

Claim 22 (original): The lacrosse stick handle of claim 20 wherein the cover has an interior surface and the ribs protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior surface thereof, the cover being positioned and applied to the shaft in a relationship wherein the ribs overly and fill the grooves respectively.

Claim 23 (original): The lacrosse stick handle of claim 20 wherein the cover includes a generally flat exterior surface extending around the shaft, the cover having a first thickness in the region of the shaft defining the grooves and a second thickness in the region of the shaft without the grooves.